



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **REGULAR MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 25, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following were present:

Mayor Billy Bain
Vice Mayor Paul C. Dotson
Councilman Bob Best
Councilman Rob Youngs

Absent:

Councilman Xavier Garcia

Also Present:

City Manager James R. Borgmann
Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
Police Captain Peter G. Baan
Interim Finance Director Alicia González
Public Works Director Robert T. Williams
City Clerk Magalí Valls

2. Invocation: Councilman Youngs offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

3. Awards & Presentations:

3A) Presentation of Plaque to the Family of Bruce Felicetti

Mayor Bain presented a plaque expressing sympathy to the family of Bruce Felicetti, who passed away on January 31, 2008, and who had served the City in the Public Works Department for twenty-nine years and will be deeply missed by his friends, family and co-workers.

Mr. Felicetti and Bruce's nephew Brandon thanked the Mayor and Council.

Public Works Director Robert Williams presented a photograph of Bruce working on a tractor.

City Manager Borgmann stated that it was a pleasure having Bruce work for the City for so many years and he did a great job for the Public Works Department.

4. Open Forum:

Parking

Mercedes Caruso of 1347 Scott Avenue, Winnetka, Illinois addressed Council about the parking at Stafford Park. She is concerned for her mother's safety because cars park across the street in front of her home at 1321 Eastward Drive all night while the occupants are partying. She called the police and was told that there is no ordinance to prohibit cars from parking in that location. Ms. Caruso asked Council to consider passing an ordinance and to place signs prohibiting parking after 9:00 p.m. when the lights go off at the park.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

5A) 02/11/2008 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the February 11, 2008 Regular Meeting were **approved as written** on motion by **Councilman Best, second by Vice Mayor Dotson and carried 4-0 on roll call vote.**

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

6A) 02/06/2008 – Architectural Review Board – Minutes

Minutes of the February 6, 2008 Architectural Review Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6B) 02/12/2008 – Recreation Commission – Minutes

Minutes of the February 12, 2008 Recreation Commission meeting were received for information without comment.

6C) 02/13/2008 – Golf and Country Club Advisory Board – Minutes

Minutes of the February 13, 2008 Golf and Country Club Advisory Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6D) 02/14/2008 – Board of Parks and Parkways – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the February 14, 2008 Board of Parks and Parkways meeting was received for information without comment.

6E) 02/19/2008 – Education Advisory Board – Minutes

Minutes of the February 19, 2008 Education Advisory Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6F) 02/21/2008 – Historic Preservation Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the February 21, 2008 Historic Preservation Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6G) 02/26/2008 – Ecology Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the February 26, 2008 Ecology Board meeting was received for information without comment.

7. Public Hearings:

7A) Public Hearing – Second Reading – Ordinance – An Ordinance of the City Council of The City of Miami Springs Amending Code of Ordinance Section 54-06, Tree Removal Standards; by Clarifying Tree Exemptions from Mitigation Activities; Adding Mango and Avocado Trees to the Exempted Tree List; Providing a Tree Removal Requirement for Dead or Effectively Destroyed Trees; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Effective Date (First Reading: 2/11/2008 – Advertised: 2/13/2008)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that there had been no changes since the first reading of the ordinance.

Mayor Bain opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak. There were no speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Best moved to adopt the ordinance. Vice Mayor Dotson seconded the motion which was carried 4-0 on roll call vote (Ordinance No. 966-2008).

8. Consent Agenda:

None.

9. Old Business:

9A) Status Report Regarding the New Community Center

City Manager Borgmann stated that due to an unforeseen delay in receiving the land survey and the geotechnical report on the existing site, the due date for the return of the responses to the Request for Proposal for the new community center was pushed up to April 11, 2008. He expects to have both reports by Friday, February 29th when they will be sent out to the prospective bidders, giving them thirty days to complete their submittals.

City Manager Borgmann reported that he had met with Architect Manuel Pérez-Vichot and Roy Rodríguez of TGSV Enterprises, Inc. who is a resident of Miami Springs that offered to assist the City at no cost in preparing responses to certain technical questions posed by prospective contractors.

To answer Vice Mayor Dotson's question, City Manager Borgmann responded that four quotes were received for the geotechnical work and the job was awarded to Dynatech.

9B) Reconsideration of Extending the End of the Qualifying Period to 60 Days Before the Election

City Manager Borgmann stated that the title of the agenda item should be restated as a reconsideration of extending the election period provided in the City Charter from 45-days to 60-days following the expiration of the proposed 30-day qualifying period. He said that the City Clerk received additional information from Miami-Dade County Elections Department and is prepared to give a report.

City Clerk Magalí Valls explained that during additional conversations with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department after the City Council meeting of February 11, 2008, Deputy Supervisor Rosy Pastrana clarified that the County requires 60-days between the end of the qualifying period and the election only if the City piggybacks with a County election. She said that if the City keeps the election in April it can maintain the current 45-days.

City Attorney Seiden stated that Charter provision 3.04 (3) states that the qualifying period for candidates for Mayor and Council shall be 60-days and the qualifying period shall be closed 45-days prior to the general election. Council voted to change the qualifying period to 30-days, which will be presented to the voters as a ballot question. He explained that the County previously provided information that the 45-days needed to be 60-days prior to the election and in effect because Council voted not to go with the County calendar, this does not have to change.

City Attorney Seiden asked for reaffirmation from Council based on the new information from the County as to whether they want to keep 45-days for the election period or change it to 60-days.

By **consensus**, Council agreed to keep the election period at 45-days.

9C) Status Report Regarding the Transfer of the Water and Sewer Systems to the County

City Manager Borgmann stated that the recent rains doubled the daily inflow of groundwater into the sewer system from 2.8 million gallons per day to more than 5.3 million gallons per day for the last six days, lending further urgency to continue looking at the potential transfer of the system.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the County indicated that they were looking for a March or April conclusion to the negotiations but he has not seen contract language as to the bond payoff or the salary and benefit package for those City employees that have the possibility of transferring over to the County. Some of the employees with many years of service will have the right to “bump back” to other Civil Service positions in Public Works, while younger employees might find it beneficial to make the move to the County.

(Agenda Item 10C was considered at this time)

9D) Appointments to Advisory Boards by the Mayor and Council Members

There were no appointments.

(Agenda Item 10D was considered at this time)

10. New Business:

10A) Report on Budget Implications of Recent Passage of the January 29th Amendment One Tax Reform Legislation

City Manager Borgmann stated that the recent tax vote on January 29th puts the Administration on “high alert” to begin thinking in terms of where reductions can be made in the upcoming budget. He prepared a memorandum outlining various proposals and recommended scheduling a workshop meeting because the Administration was not prepared to discuss any specific dollar amounts on the proposals.

City Manager Borgmann said that the first proposal made by Speaker of the House Marco Rubio would have meant a \$3.2 million cut and the Administration prepared a list of very drastic measures.

The City Manager explained that one cut was initiated this year by rolling back the millage rate, which was a \$400,000 reduction and since the revenue normally increases \$400,000 for inflation this meant a reduction of \$800,000. The most recent estimate from the county for the reduction in the upcoming budget is approximately \$600,000 and figuring the usual \$400,000 increase, this means a \$1 million difference.

City Manager Borgmann commented that the legislature will be working hard again to reform taxes during the upcoming legislative session and the budget for the upcoming year must be prepared based on what happens. The Tax Committee has the authority to take a vote straight to the people.

Vice Mayor Dotson said that the legislature must make a decision by May 4th.

City Manager Borgmann presented a brief overview of the City's budget for all operations totaling \$28,158,101. The General Fund is \$12,750,269 and Special Revenue Funds total \$2,578,957. Capital Projects Funds set aside for the community center and other projects total \$3,605,000; Enterprise Funds total \$8,825,600 and Debt Service Funds total \$398,275.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the General Fund is 45% of the total budget and the 6.3 millage rate would generate approximately \$6.6 million, which is roughly half the revenue needed. The budget is very dependent on utility taxes, franchise fees, and local option gas taxes to make up the other 50% and consideration must be given to new sources of revenue or making major cuts.

City Manager Borgmann stated that he does not want to be an alarmist; he is trying to be a realist about the potential of what is coming so that Council understands the ramifications of certain changes. He would like input on what Council would or would not consider for the upcoming budget.

Vice Mayor Dotson commented that 72% of the citizens voting favored the tax changes on the January 29th ballot and Council should comply with their will by preparing a budget to achieve their objective. He said that there are critical services to provide and he would like to begin by assuring those services would be accomplished. From there, Council should begin consideration of how other areas of activity can be adjusted so that the budget targets are achieved.

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that an estimated budget should be drawn up by the Administration for the workshop in order to have numbers to work with and choices to be indicated. He said that Council has the prerogative to increase revenue by an amount equal to a cost of living factor.

Vice Mayor Dotson recalled that the ad valorem tax valuation increased for the year 2005-2006 by 17.2% and 11.7% in 2006-2007. He said that more than \$700,000 was spent on the Golf and Country Club in 2005-2006, which was never returned to the City and he would like to reflect on the 2005-2006 budget to see how the City could operate on a similar basis and determine where the \$700,000 is now being spent.

Vice Mayor Dotson would like to look at past operations, be positive with the undertaking and avoid a “sky is falling” attitude. He felt that it is very important to have maximum leadership and communication skills so that people are not demoralized. No one knows what the end result will be and he would like to see what can be done and the choices that will be made for amendments during the process. It is not an impossible job to accomplish what the people have voted for.

Vice Mayor Dotson said that he has no intention of cutting police or vital government services and Council should look at the entire picture beyond that point. The Administration could provide some representation of what they recommend in a simulated budget so that there is something to discuss during the workshop.

Mayor Bain recommended holding a Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

Councilman Youngs stated that he appreciated the tax reform proposals offered by the Administration. He said that the next step would be to quantify each proposal with an approximate value so that Council could prioritize the adjustments at the workshop.

City Manager Borgmann clarified that the Administration is not recommending any of the proposals at this time; they are only ideas to achieve a drastic reduction. The current millage rate is 6.3 mills and the upcoming budget could result in another reduction of \$600,000. He said that minor changes were made this year and minor changes could be made in the upcoming budget to offset the \$600,000. Going to the next level, the sum of the minor adjustments may not have been the best way to proceed. He explained that one or two major changes may have been better than minor decreases that have reduced the efficiency and effectiveness of an existing service.

Councilman Youngs stated that eliminating departments or consolidating services with other cities would be the dramatic changes and it is beneficial to consider the alternatives early in the process.

(Agenda Item 10B considered after 10D)

10B) Consideration of Authorization to Allow a Local Resident to Operate a New Snack Bar at Stafford Park During City Sponsored Activities

City Manager Borgmann stated that over the past several years there had been complaints about not having enough volunteers to operate the concession stands because parents want to be able to watch their kids participate in the sports programs.

City Manager Borgmann reported that he was approached by Esteban Gómez who asked how the City was going to staff the new snack bars that are being built in conjunction with the park restrooms. He told him that normally there are volunteers from the various teams, but the volunteer sources seem to be declining.

City Manager Borgmann said that Mr. Gómez has been confined to a wheelchair since birth but he does not stop trying to improve himself, which was the case when he proposed the idea of running the concession stand at Stafford Park. The City Attorney has reviewed the letter of agreement and added additional language that further protects the City and Mr. Gómez.

Mr. Gómez has expressed a desire to use volunteers from the high school to assist him and earn their community hours, according to Mr. Borgmann. He is an inspirational person for the students to be associated with and has even served as a soccer coach from his chair.

City Manager Borgmann said that in speaking with Little League President Tim Cox and Optimist Club President George Lob, they both said that this is an opportunity for Mr. Gómez and a solution to the problem of providing volunteers for the concession stands. The agreement only refers to Stafford Park and he recommends entering into the agreement with Mr. Gómez.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that the building facility would be used by Mr. Gómez but that would not prevent a parent, coach or league sponsor from bringing food themselves.

Mayor Bain commented that soccer tournaments are held at Stafford Park, and snacks are sold as a fundraiser for the soccer program. He asked how the agreement with Mr. Gómez would be incorporated with the tournaments.

City Manager Borgmann responded that Mr. Gómez would have the first right of refusal for any of the events at Stafford Park. The agreement would not stop anyone from bringing in free snacks but it would prohibit the use of the concession stand by another party. He added that Mr. Gómez could be storing his personal merchandise in the structure.

To answer the Mayor's question, City Manager Borgmann stated that the hours of operation would be an hour or two before and after an event. The intent of the agreement is only for the sale of goods during events.

City Attorney Seiden said that the letter of agreement could be formalized to address Council's concerns.

Mayor Bain stated that the agreement should specify that the hours of operation are before and after events. He was concerned about the use of the facility during special fund raising events for the soccer program.

City Manager Borgmann said that Mr. Gómez mentioned that one of his goals is to be successful so that he can give something back to the sports programs.

City Attorney Seiden suggested including a certain number of special events during the year or a clause that Mr. Gómez has the right to use the facility unless the City gives advance notice, which would be superior.

Mayor Bain suggested that Mr. Gómez might agree to run the concession stand for the special events for a certain percentage of the profits.

City Manager Borgmann stated that there was a discussion about after school hours and both parties came to the conclusion that it would not be a good idea. The intention is not for the facility to be open around the clock.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that Mr. Gómez is not in a position to provide insurance and the operation would be covered under the City's insurance, which is the same as if the stand is run by volunteers.

Councilman Youngs suggested adding "without cause" to the provision that the termination of the agreement may be made by either party with 30-day notification.

Councilman Youngs moved to approve the agreement, as amended. Councilman Best seconded the motion.

To answer the Mayor's question, City Attorney Seiden stated that as long as Council is basically in agreement with what was discussed he would amend the letter, subject to the approval of the City Manager. A copy will be provided to Council and if there are additional concerns notification should be given to the City Manager.

The motion was carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

10C) Consideration of Authorization to Expend Up to \$25,000 to Hire Current Investment Bankers Morgan Keegan (Knox Wall Division) to Defeas the Water & Sewer Bond Issue

City Manager Borgmann stated that Knox Wall had been absorbed by Morgan Keegan, but they are basically the same people that the City has been dealing with since the bonds were issued. He explained that they had been very helpful in the past offering free advice when considering the different Golf Course models, and they estimated a price of \$25,000 to do the work.

Assistant City Manager Gorland recommended waiving the Request for Quotation process to approve the use of Morgan Keegan (Knox Wall Division) to be the agent and financial advisor/investment banker responsible for and in charge of the gross defeasance process of the City's Water and Sewer Bonds series 1998.

Mr. Gorland explained that the process is a legal pre-condition to the transfer of the Water and Sewer system. The proposed fee for the financial advisory work for the gross defeasance of the bonds is an amount not to exceed \$25,000, of which up to \$5,000 is earmarked for the bond counsel defeasance opinion. Funding is expected to come from a portion of the proceeds the City receives from Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (WASA) in conjunction with the transfer of the system.

Mr. Gorland explained that defeasance requires a high degree of technical expertise, and while others also possess these qualifications, Morgan Keegan has been the investment banker dating back to the initial bond issuance. They have been involved and provided various calculations and advice during the last two years regarding the transfer of the system. They have done an excellent job, not only with the initial issuance, but also with the subsequent refinancing of the bonds.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that as a result of the ongoing relationship with Morgan Keegan, their familiarity with the bonds, and their working knowledge of the covenants contained in the legal documents, they have provided a great deal of free advice and support during the last twelve months. They are one of the few acknowledged experts and they are highly skilled in extremely technical and time sensitive defeasances in which, if there is an error, the cost of correction can be significant, delaying the transfer of the system.

Assistant City Manager Gorland explained that defeasance is a legal, economic instrument whereby the bond holders continue to hold their bonds and are paid interest until the first call date of the bonds. The funds are put into a trust escrow, including estimated costs and when the bonds are called the execution can go forward. Payment is made to the bond holders and the balance is returned to the City, which requires a great deal of legal advice, and counsel must render an opinion in effect saying that bond holders will not lose any money.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that should there be a closing on the transaction in March or April the City must be ready for defeasance, but it is not 100% sure if this will be necessary because theoretically defeasance could be done by WASA as well.

To answer Councilman Best's question, City Manager Borgmann clarified that Morgan Keegan would not be paid until it is known who is responsible for the defeasance of the bonds.

To answer Vice Mayor Dotson's question, Assistant City Manager Gorland said there is no guarantee that the defeasance will be accomplished, although it is 99.9% likely. He can see no reason in this particular transaction why it would not go through with due diligence.

Vice Mayor Dotson asked what proceeds the City can expect to receive from WASA in conjunction with the transfer of the system.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that the City would receive the value of the outstanding bonds, or approximately \$8.5 million that will go into an escrow account.

City Manager Borgmann explained that by the terms of the bond itself, defeasance must be achieved prior to a sale or transfer. The City will get the funds from the County prior to the closing, which in essence is a loan seven days in advance of the closing. The City will turn around and provide a transfer to Morgan Keegan and they will do the necessary paperwork and establish an escrow account to pay off the bond holders.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that the County had not provided a draft agreement, which is the next step and he will make sure that the details are spelled out very clearly. He said that the City would not spend the \$25,000 unless it is certain that the deal is going through.

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that he would like to be confident that there would not be any unforeseen obstacles along the way that could be avoided.

City Manager Borgmann stated that no agreement had been approved to transfer the system, there are no terms and if there is no agreement, the \$25,000 would not be spent.

To answer Councilman Youngs' question, Assistant City Manager Gorland said that if the process to transfer the system is underway and the bonds defeasance is in progress, the funds could be spent if the deal is cancelled.

City Attorney Seiden stated that the County may want the City to use another firm or they might want to determine if Morgan Keegan is a satisfactory escrow agent. He explained that this is only a request for authorization to be prepared to go forward.

Councilman Youngs asked how much lead time is needed to get ready once the firm is hired.

Assistant City Manager Gorland said that usually the lead time is four to six weeks. An opinion of counsel is required which means they would have to work with the auditors as well.

City Manager Borgmann stated that in discussion with the County, they indicated that they would like the City to have its own firm and they suggested beginning with a calculation based on an October 1, 2008 date for the process.

City Manager Borgmann reiterated that he had not seen an agreement and hopefully the County would not add any unreasonable conditions. He clarified that the transfer would have to be approved by Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

Vice Mayor Dotson asked the Administration to keep Council informed.

Councilman Youngs moved to approve an expenditure up to \$25,000 and Vice Mayor Dotson seconded the motion which was carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

10D) Report by Councilman Youngs Regarding Miami-Dade County Public Schools Committee Activities

Councilman Youngs stated that he had four items to report related to the Attendance Boundary Meeting and the recent Education Advisory Board meeting. He asked Eduardo Molliner who is the Vice Chairman of the Education Advisory Board to make a proposal to Council that was presented to the Education Advisory Board.

Eduardo Molliner of 1285 Ludlam Drive, Vice Chair of the Education Advisory Board, said that as an administrator in the public school system he is concerned about safety on the Internet, especially “My Space” and other programs.

Mr. Molliner stated that he contacted the Mayor of the City of Hialeah with a proposal and the Police Department is beginning a new educational program about the dangers of “My Space” and other internet sites. A presentation will be made to the parents at his school on March 20th informing them about how kids are exposing themselves by placing personal information on these sites.

Mr. Molliner suggested that the City of Miami Springs could also participate in an educational program for the students and parents by holding evening workshops at the schools. He said that kids do not realize that they are exposing themselves to predators, serious crimes are happening and parents have a false sense of security. He added that Miami-Dade County Mayor Alvarez is proposing a wireless internet throughout the entire County, which would increase the accessibility to the internet for kids.

Mr. Molliner stated there are new dangers and the City should be proactive instead of waiting for a crime to happen. He suggested that a police officer from Miami Springs could attend the presentation made by the City of Hialeah.

Mayor Bain asked how the schools are going to get the parents to attend evening presentations.

Mr. Molliner said that his school Principal is considering mandatory participation for the fourth and fifth graders by giving a grade for attending. He explained that it would be the responsibility of the school administrators and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to sell the program and the Region 3 Staff and school principals would be willing to help. He suggested that the City could make the program available to private schools and organizations.

Police Captain Baan stated that he attended a presentation made by the Attorney General’s Office on internet safety at Miami Springs Middle School. He spoke to the Community Policing Office at that time and they are putting together a program.

Captain Baan said that the City of Hialeah Police might be using the same PowerPoint presentation that was made by the Attorney General’s Office.

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that he would like to have a continuing program that deals with changes over time. He would support a reasonable plan put together by the Police Department.

Council asked the Police Department to coordinate a program with the City Manager’s approval.

Councilman Youngs reported that the School Board Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) had tentatively approved a few changes for boundaries, but Miami Springs Middle School was not recommended for advised or targeted status based upon the request from Region 3 to see if the number of students can be reduced based upon address verification. The enrollment is currently at 140% capacity with 1,750 students and the school's permanent capacity is 1,500.

Councilman Youngs explained that another plan to reduce the enrollment is to check the qualifications of the students attending the magnet program at Miami Springs Middle School because they must maintain certain qualifications to be eligible for the program.

Councilman Youngs added that Lorah Park Elementary is the next elementary school adjacent to the eastern boundary of Miami Springs and there is a proposal for a K-8 program within the next three years, which would reduce a number of students who would stay at that location instead of going to Miami Springs.

The Director of the Region 3 Office has offered to provide monthly reports to the Education Advisory Board on the effects of the measures to reduce overcrowding, according to Councilman Youngs. He explained that there is a window of opportunity to target the school for a boundary change in September or October 2008, in which the citizens, municipalities, or the ABC can target a school that is not recommended to be targeted by the Region Office.

Vice Mayor Dotson said that Councilman Youngs deserves a lot of credit for his great work with the ABC, the Education Advisory Board and the Region 3 Office.

Councilman Best asked if Council would be notified of the results through the Education Advisory Board minutes.

Councilman Youngs stated that the minutes would include a report from Region 3 Director Robert Kalinsky or Superintendent George Nuñez regarding the results of their efforts. He explained that the Region 3 Office had delivered on their promises and commitments in the past and this seems to be a prudent step in the right direction.

Councilman Youngs reported that City Manager Borgmann had been working on a proposed compact with Miami Dade County Public Schools and he would also like to participate in order to help draft specific goals. He said that other cities have compacts that are very general and some cities are including specific goals that can be achieved. He added that Education Advisory Board member Debra Sheridan offered to participate in the meetings.

Councilman Youngs stated that the School District is faced with the problem of a reduced number of students and reduced budgets. The closing or repurposing of schools is technically off the table for consideration by the School Board and they are focusing on money savings and access to high demand programs. The 3-year Equity and Access Plan is a design for the schools to make high demand programs available in three transportation sectors in order to reduce the cost of transporting students across the County.

Councilman Youngs said that the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (CIE) programs are desirable plans that are defined on page nine of the Equity and Access Plan. The map on page eleven shows IB and CIE programs proposed for schools in the western Doral area and one item for consideration is whether or not Council wants to encourage the placement of these programs at schools in or closer to Miami Springs.

Councilman Youngs stated that IB programs are proposed for Hialeah-Miami Lakes and Miami Beach Senior High Schools, while a CIE program is proposed for Ronald Reagan Doral High School. The operating costs are approximately \$115,000 per year and two cities with school compacts receive donated funds. He said that an IB program in Miami Springs for \$115,000 would be a great deal, although this could be difficult in the current budget environment.

Councilman Youngs said that there is flexibility between the School Board and the cities within the school compacts to deliver a desirable result in a joint agreement effort. He explained that high demand programs are proposed for Miami Beach and Doral Senior High Schools, which are larger cities with financial resources to contribute.

11. Other Business:

None

12. Reports & Recommendations:

12A) City Attorney

No report.

12B) City Manager

Dade Days

City Manager Borgmann stated that Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9 and Thursday April 10, 2008. He asked those Council members planning to attend to begin coordinating their trip with the City Clerk.

Miami-Dade County League of Cities Meeting

City Manager Borgmann announced that the Miami-Dade County League of Cities would hold their Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the Miami Springs Golf and County Club. Council members planning to attend are requested to respond to the City Clerk by Thursday, February 28th.

Liquid Waste Permit

City Manager Borgmann reported that every year the City is required to secure a permit to haul liquid waste that is removed from the storm drains and since there had been no violations in the past year the \$100.00 permit fee was waived.

Shuttle Bus Service

City Manager Borgmann stated that the shuttle bus had been ordered, the Administration met with the owner of the company to negotiate the contract and the new bus will debut at the Springs River Festival.

Relay for Life Cancer Walk

City Manager Borgmann announced that the Relay for Life Cancer Walk would be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Circle. He encouraged everyone to participate and support cancer survivors.

Mayor Bain added that there would be entertainment and food and many people worked hard to make this a successful event.

Baseball Opening Ceremony

City Manager Borgmann reported that the Little League Baseball opening ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday March 15th at Prince Field. He said that it is an exciting time for the kids and a nice community event for everyone to attend.

Deer Run Traffic Calming

City Manager Borgmann said that the City of Coral Gables has traffic calming devices that slow the speed of traffic down to 20-mph. He said that this could be a solution for Deer Run and he would be contacting the City of Coral Gables to see if they have specifications.

12C) City Council

Stafford Park Cross Walk

Mayor Bain stated that Commissioner Rebeca Sosa was contacted regarding the specifications for the Stafford Park cross walk and she is very interested in helping.

Sympathy

Councilman Best referred to Councilman Youngs' invocation and said that prayers are with the Felicetti family in the death of their son and Interim Finance Director Alicia González in the death of her mother.

Tax Reform

Councilman Best stated that Council must take a proactive approach to tax cuts, considering what is really necessary. He knows that funds will be tight, but he would not want to step back in terms of what Council had achieved over the last few years.

Annexation of Railroad Property

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that he was told by a railroad source that Railway American purchased the Florida East Coast Railroad and that a development company is committed to develop the current rail yard west of Miami Springs. The plans are to extend a road from N. W. 58th to N. W. 74th Street across the canal into Ludlam Drive. He would like to confirm the accuracy of this information.

City Attorney Seiden said that Mayor Bain had contacted him regarding a similar rumor and he contacted Attorney Neisen Kasdin who is going to look into the matter and get back with him. He will inform the City Clerk as soon as he receives further information.

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that he wrote a letter to County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa expressing his comments on annexation. He feels that it is important for contiguity to annex the railroad property in order to have control over development.

Speeding Traffic

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that the incoming traffic around the Circle past Starbucks creates a hazardous situation that needs attention.

Police Captain Peter G. Baan reported that steps had already been taken to correct the situation, with a speed limit sign installed in the median and rumble strips placed just past the bridge. He said that the patrol officers have been directed to run the radar once a day on each shift.

Bob Murphy

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that Bob Murphy, a long time resident of Miami Springs that was involved in civic affairs passed away.

Fund Raiser

Councilman Youngs announced that Curtiss Mansion, Inc. is holding a wine and cheese fund raiser on Saturday, March 8th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club for \$25.00 per person. For more information call Susan Stinson at 305.885.2499.

Mayor Bain added that the Miami Springs Historical Society is holding a wine and cheese fundraiser on Thursday, March 6th.

Racquetball Court Painting

Mayor Bain asked about the status of the racquetball courts painting project.

Assistant City Manager Gorland reported that estimates are forthcoming from Public Works because the job requires a lot of preparation work.

Dugouts

Mayor Bain asked for an update on the dugout project.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that the technical requirements and plans are in the process of being reviewed and signed off by the structural inspector on February 27th.

13. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Billy Bain
Mayor

ATTEST:

Magalí Valls, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as written during meeting of: 3/10/2008.

Transcription assistance provided by S. Hitaffer